

# War Protesters Arrested at Capitol

By Martin Weil  
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Ten Quakers protesting the Vietnam war were arrested yesterday after they sat on the Capitol steps and began reading the names of American war dead listed in the Congressional Record.

The protesters, members of a Philadelphia-based body called A Quaker Action Group, offered no resistance as they were led from the East steps about 1 p.m. by Capitol policemen. They were charged with unlawful assembly.

Earlier, in a separate protest, the mother of an Army lieutenant killed in Vietnam visited the Vietnamese Embassy here to return the medals the Saigon government had awarded her son posthumously.

Handing the medals to embassy counselor Nguyen Hoan, the woman, Mrs. Robert C. Ransom, of Bronxville, N.Y., told him she and her husband will not accept them because "your government suppresses freedom."

Her action was sponsored by Clergy and Laymen Concerned about the War in Vietnam, a New York based antiwar group.

## List Casualties

The Quaker protest began about noon. Seven men and three women began taking turns reading aloud from the list of more than 31,000 Americans killed in Vietnam that Rep. Paul Findley (R-Ill.) inserted in the Record last March.

Quietly refusing the order to leave issued by Capitol Police Chief J. M. Powell, the Quakers read through the list of Alabama and Arizona war dead.

A young woman in a white print dress took the copy of the Record. "These men have died in Vietnam," she said in a flat voice. "They are our

brothers. They are from Arkansas." She began to read. Shortly afterward, two Metropolitan police wagons arrived at the drive beneath the stairs. Capitol police led the Quakers, one by one, down the 19 steps from the landing where they had been sitting.

Most were silent. One man continued to read from the Record as he was led towards the wagons.

## Expected Arrest

Before the demonstration started, group members told newsmen they expected they might be arrested. A spokesman said they accepted arrest as a means of focusing attention on the need to end the war.

Those arrested: Richard K. Taylor, 30, Philadelphia; Ernest G. Butler, 24, Wallingford, Pa.; David M.

Boydton, 23, 3602 T st. nw.; Robert E. Dickinson, 52, Los Angeles; Albert W. Fowler, 28, Rosemont Pa.; Wilmer J. Young, 81, Philadelphia; Lawrence Scott, 61, Philadelphia; Lynne Shivers, 28, Jennie Bull, 24 and Joan Nicholson. No addresses were given for the women.

## Unlawful Assembly

Chief Powell said all 10 were charged with unlawful assembly. They will have a hearing today in the Court of General Sessions.

Alerted in advance, newsmen were already assembled outside the Vietnamese Embassy at 2251 R st. nw. when Mrs. Ransom arrived, around 10 a.m.

She had earlier obtained an appointment with embassy officials. The full purpose of her visit had been disclosed to the press but not to the embassy,



By Elsworth Davis—The Washington Post

## Capitol Police Chief Powell warns war protest leader.

according to a spokesman for Clergy and Laymen.

## Killed by Mine

Mrs. Ransom told newsmen that her son, Richard C. Ransom Jr., died in Vietnam last May shortly after he stepped on a mine. She said the Army recently delivered two medals to her on behalf of the Republic of Vietnam.

Inside the embassy, after publicly taking back the two medals in their plastic containers, Hoan, the embassy counselor, emphasized that he did so with regret and with gratitude for Lt. Ransom's sacrifice.

Mrs. Ransom expressed her appreciation. Then she said her information indicates that the Saigon government suppresses freedom, jails students and religious leaders, and has closed 30 newspapers.

Hoan replied that Saigon is fighting for freedom rather than suppressing it. Those jailed, he said, were jailed for "infractions" of the law, rather than for simply disagreeing with the government.

Contending that Vietnam has a free press, he said some papers had to be closed "because they did not serve the national interest," and printed material the "communists can use against us."

Mrs. Ransom had coffee before she left.

In another development, representatives of Clergy and Laymen and another peace group, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, met for 50 minutes with Richard Snelder, a White House foreign affairs staff aid, in the Executive Office Building.

The Rev. Richard R. Fernandez, director of Clergy and Laymen, expressed disappointment with much of Snelder's position, but said he was somewhat cheered by Snelder's willingness to find Snelder willing to find the Saigon government's practiced political repression.

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